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The President's Daily Brief

October 17, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ISRAEL

Prime Minister Rabin is running into trouble on the issue of territorial concessions to Jordan. Former defense minister Dayan and three of his Knesset colleagues from Labor's Rafi faction have signed a petition calling on the Knesset to oppose a reversion of West Bank territory to Arab rule. The petition was precipitated by Rabin's suggestion earlier this month that Israel should be ready to give up parts of the West Bank in return for a Jordanian guarantee of nonbelligerency.

Dayan's challenge to Rabin's position, and his defense of the challenge before a television audience on Monday, dramatically surfaced the simmering divisions within the Labor Alignment over the future of the West Bank. Dayan's move underlines the difficulty Rabin will face in securing unanimity from his own party in support of an Israeli negotiating position flexible enough to hold out the possibility of progress in peace talks.

Adopting one of his more uncompromising stands on the subject, Dayan said he would vote for any Knesset resolution opposing the return of the West Bank to a "foreign regime," including "Jordan, the Palestinians, or even the British." He said he opposes:

--any territorial partition of the West Bank;

--any agreement preventing Jews from settling anywhere on the West Bank;

--any agreement obliging the Israeli Defense Force to withdraw from West Bank areas it believes ought to remain under Israeli military control.

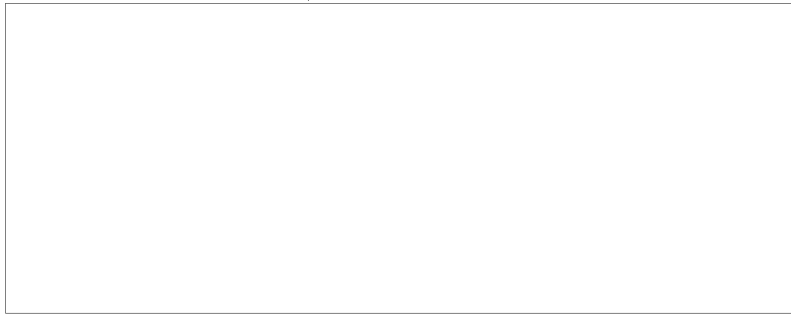
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GREECE

Foreign Minister Mavros resigned on Tuesday so that he can devote full time to the campaign for the parliamentary election on November 17. In stepping down, Mavros noted that "no developments were foreseen" on the Cyprus issue until after the election.

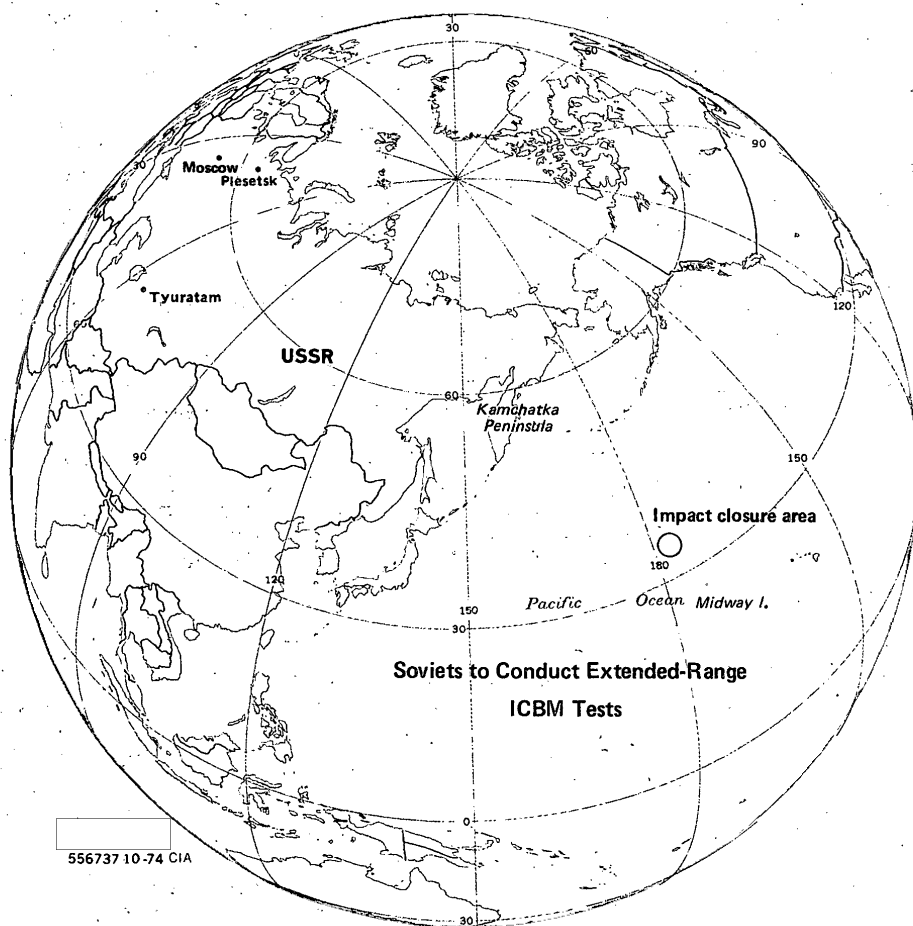
Mavros recently told Ambassador Kubisch that Cyprus would be a major issue in the campaign. He said another key issue is whether to "purge" those who collaborated with the military regimes over the past seven years; he did not divulge his own view on this question. Mavros doubts that the campaign will create more anti-US sentiment than already exists.

The foreign minister claimed that his party and the New Democracy Party, led by Prime Minister Karamanlis, have already agreed to form a coalition after the elections. He said that the two parties could obtain from 70 to 75 percent of the vote.

Meanwhile, a Soviet embassy official in Athens has told a US diplomat that Moscow hopes Mavros' party will win enough seats to deny an outright majority to Karamanlis. The Soviets presumably reason that the weaker Karamanlis, the more room there will be for leftist pressures to operate.

The Soviet forecast is that Karamanlis' party will obtain 140 of the 300 seats in parliament, that Mavros' party will get 100, and the United Left and Papandreou a maximum of 40. Smaller parties would get the remaining 20 seats.

Our initial assessment is that Karamanlis' party may win a majority. If his party falls short of a majority, he and Mavros will almost certainly be able to form a coalition government. We believe that the United Left and Papandreou will probably fall short of the 40 seats predicted by the Soviets.



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USSR

The Soviets are preparing for a second round of extended-range missile tests to the Pacific this month. Moscow announced yesterday that an impact area some 400 miles north of Midway will be used for this purpose from October 20th to the 30th.

The impact area is about 5,000 nautical miles from the launch center at Tyuratam and about 4,700 nautical miles from Plesetsk. Its size--260 nautical miles in diameter--suggests some of the missiles will carry MIRVs.

The three missile range instrumentation ships remained in the vicinity after these tests and were recently joined by a fourth.

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NOTES

Turkey: Caretaker Prime Minister Ecevit met with Justice Party leader Demirel on Tuesday to propose solutions to the month-old government crisis. Demirel said he needed at least ten days to respond to the proposals, almost all of which are linked to holding an election in either the spring or fall of 1975. Ecevit's offer to Demirel reportedly calls for an agreement between the two parties to revise the national election law to eliminate the small splinter parties. This would be followed by formation of either a minority government by Ecevit's left-of-center Republican People's Party or a coalition with the conservative Justice Party that would govern until a new election could be held in July 1975. Revision of the election law would be attractive to Demirel because it would enable the Justice Party to increase its seats substantially.

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